

THE BEST SOLUTION

Of the Present Stagnation in the Iron Industry is a Canal.

LABOR MUST MAKE CONCESSIONS.

The Cost of Fuel and Transportation Must Be Reduced.

EFFECTS OF SOUTHERN COMPETITION

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

SHARPSVILLE, Pa., March 24.—A final tour of the Mahoning and Shenango valleys discloses the number of idle furnaces now to be 12 out of a total of 15 in the Mahoning Valley, with the weekly capacity of those out of blast estimated at 7,788 tons.

The Opinion of a Neutral Concern.

This firm has a plant of 120 acres in the Conneville region, having a sufficient capacity when running to supply their stacks; but the plant is at present idle, owing to the coke strike.

Why the Market is Now Stronger

True, the market is somewhat stronger now than when the shutdown movement first went into effect; but this fact is due wholly to the rapid consumption of the stocks of iron that were held at the various furnace yards, and the possibility now apparent of there being a scarcity of all grades of pig iron; but just as soon as the furnace resume under the old order of things, the Southern producer will be back on the market with prices and a return to the present demoralized state of affairs is inevitable.

The Labor Element in the Cost.

The cost of labor in producing a ton of coke, according to the last wage agreement in force, was fully 80 per cent of the whole. When operators undertake to mine their own coke, they are saving the cost of the labor and shipping it to their own yards, under the disadvantage of high freight rates, and under the present scale of wages, it is only a question of time when they will be back on the market.

Another Furnaceman's Valuable Opinions.

In a conversation with E. A. Wheeler, General Manager of the Wheeler Furnace Company, which company owns the Ella and Fannie furnaces at West Middlesex, and also one stack in this city, the situation is presented as well as the probable future results—thoroughly reviewed. It is Mr. Wheeler's opinion that the necessity of the furnaces to shut down is primarily due to the abnormal depression in the pig iron market, which depression is partly aggravated by the large shipments of Southern iron into this market, permitted only because the valley furnaces cannot, under the present high rates of freight and the high price of coke, make iron cheap enough to compete with the Southern furnaces.

Why Southern Furnaces Cut Prices.

One cause mentioned as contributing to the activity of Southern iron producers in the North, is the fact that the Southern furnaces in the South are built with borrowed money, and that in order to be able to pay the 6 or more per cent interest on these bonds they are compelled to run all the year at extremely narrow margins. Such was the case of the Fort Payne Company, which was considered one of the finest blast furnace properties in the South, but was eventually forced to the wall owing to inability to pay the interest accumulating on their bonds.

Had Long Been Granted Superiority

Over similar products of other districts, and that as the supply was inexhaustible these advantages rendered the possibility of the South ever wholly encroaching upon the domain of Northern furnacemen.

The Figures in Detail for It.

First are the total freight rates paid on the different materials entering into the manufacture of a ton of Bessemer pig iron, and they are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 2,700 pounds ore at \$2.75 per ton, Lake freight, Lake port to furnace, Total freight, Labor in furnace, Wear and tear of machinery, COST OF MATERIALS.

The average cost is found to approximate \$17.50, and when it is understood that furnaces here were selling as low as \$15.50 and \$16 from their stocks in store, the loss is apparent. Surely, no further elucidation is necessary to show the position of pig iron manufacturers in this district as regards the shutdown.

We Must Have Cheaper Production.

The cry on every hand is for cheaper production, and many go so far as to assert that unless a thorough reconstruction of the pig iron market takes place shortly, that is, as far as the cost of producing iron is concerned, the industry will gradually slip out of the grasp of home furnacemen into the hands of Southern producers.

As the ore companies have shown a desire to share in this reduction by reducing the price of ore from \$1 to \$0.90 per ton compared with last year, and the settlement of the Conneville coke strike, and the ultimate reduction in the selling price of coke is only a question of a little time, the slowest, and what appears to be the most expedient, industry to readjust itself is that of rail transportation.

The Knowledge of this Fact among Furnacemen has led to a general discussion as to the possibility of the construction of the Erie ship canal.

The Railroad Can't Remedy the Matter.

It is not only a question whether the railroads will reduce their rates, but with the limited carrying capacity of the Erie canal, it is a question whether they possess at present and which are not capable of great enlargement, will they be able to handle the traffic that will be offered in the course of a few years should the increase in rate in the manufacture of pig iron continue?

In an interview with John M. Goodwin, the eminent civil engineer who has charge of the survey of the proposed canal, he stated that the only solution of the question now occupying the minds of the Mahoning and Shenango valley furnacemen lies in the construction of the proposed canal.

Only Hope for Northern Furnacemen

to maintain their present hold on the Northern market lies directly in the construction of the Erie ship canal.

Mr. Goodwin put forward an argument which will probably appear to a great many who have become interested in the construction of the proposed waterway. It is that even should the railroads lower the freight rates to meet the demand of the furnacemen, they would not be able in the course of a few years to handle the traffic that will be offered them should the present rate of increase in the production of pig iron continue, and the reasons for this are owing to the lack of terminal facilities and room for the siding, of loaded cars in the different cities and towns. In the case of Pittsburgh, it is a well-known fact that there is at present no possible ingress for a railroad except by tunneling, and even then, when the center of the city is reached, there is no room for the cars. This is also true of many smaller cities and towns between the Ohio river and Lake Erie, and the only inlet remaining is by the proposed waterway.

The average tonnage of ore in a lake cargo was 1,500 tons.

What the Railroads Can't Do.

In order to transport this quantity of iron fully 60 cars of a total length of over 1,900 feet are required for each cargo, and, last, but not least, the great stretch of track the unloaded cars would fill from day to day, until they are unloaded. On the other hand, suppose the existence of the Erie Canal entrance into Pittsburgh, and other towns by river were a fact, a vessel not more than 200 feet in length could be moored alongside the furnace stockhouse and the material unloaded, thus saving the extra handling necessary to load it into cars and unload it. This statement also holds true in the matter of the transportation of coke. Thus it is that the construction of the Erie ship canal, which would revolutionize transportation matters and cause a considerable saving in the cost of producing iron, is looked upon by Mr. Goodwin as the only remedy whereby the evils that at present stare the pig iron manufacturers of Pennsylvania and Ohio in the face can be forever eradicated.

Confirmation.

New styles, new ideas in children's confirmation photographs; 12 elegant cabinet, \$1. Come to Hendricks & Co., 68 Federal street, Allegheny.

85 Boys' Suits To-Day for \$2.25

To make this Easter week a memorable one, we will give you your choice of about 5,000 fine cassimere and cheviot suits in light and dark shades for the extremely low price of \$2.25. Remember, sizes run from 4 to 14. P. C. C. C., PITTSBURG COMBINATION CLOTHING COMPANY, corner Grant and Diamond streets, opposite the Court House.

The Latest Shoe!

For ladies' wear is a soft dogona, hand-sewed, square toe, patent leather tip, low heels, at \$2.50 per pair, at G. D. Simon's, 78 Ohio street, Allegheny, Pa.

CASH paid for old gold and silver at Hanch's, No. 295 Fifth avenue. WFSB

SEE our beautiful line of Easter neck wear.

A Great Diversity.

La Grippe makes everybody tired and oppressed. Exactly opposite effects follow the use of Iron City Brewery's fine beers or ale.

Easter Gifts, 25c to 85c.

Hundreds of beautiful souvenirs, novel and surprising, at E. P. Roberts & Sons, Fifth avenue and Market street.

Confirmation.

New styles, new ideas in children's confirmation photographs; 12 elegant cabinet, \$1. Come to Hendricks & Co., 68 Federal street, Allegheny.

St. Jacobs Oil Cures Surely. Sprains. Bruises. Ohio & Miss. Railway. Office President and General Manager, Baltimore, Md. Cincinnati, Ohio. "My foot suddenly turned red and gave me a very severe sprained ankle. The application of St. Jacobs Oil resulted at once in relief from pain."

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Canada and American Reciprocity.

OTTAWA, March 24.—It is understood that no communication has as yet been received by the Government appointing a date for a conference between the Canadian Commissioner and Mr. Blaine upon reciprocity matters.

A LITTLE BABY'S SKIN

And Scalp Covered with Sores. A Wonderfully Rapid Cure by the Cuticura Remedies.

I have used your CUTICURA REMEDIES in two cases where it proved to be successful. The first was in the case of a boy a year and a half old. His face and body were in a terrible condition. He was covered with sores. He had been treated by the best physicians, but did not improve any. I was then advised to try the CUTICURA REMEDIES, which I did. He took one and one-half bottles of CUTICURA RESOLVENT when his skin was as smooth as silk, and is to-day. I used the CUTICURA on his nose and the CUTICURA SOAP in washing him. He is now a healthy, happy child. The other case was a case of a child who was covered with sores. He had been treated by the best physicians, but did not improve any. I was then advised to try the CUTICURA REMEDIES, which I did. He took one and one-half bottles of CUTICURA RESOLVENT when his skin was as smooth as silk, and is to-day. I used the CUTICURA on his nose and the CUTICURA SOAP in washing him. He is now a healthy, happy child.

Itching and Burning Skin

I have been afflicted since last March with skin disease the doctors called eczema. My face was covered with sores and sores, and the itching and burning were very unbearable. Seeing your CUTICURA REMEDIES so highly recommended, I bought a bottle of CUTICURA SOAP externally and RESOLVENT internally for four months. I can now state, in gratitude for which I make this public statement. MRS. C. A. PRIDEBOHN, Broad River, Conn.

Why Suffer One Moment

From torturing and disgusting skin diseases, when a single application of the CUTICURA REMEDIES will, in the great majority of cases, afford instant relief in the most agonizing itching, burning, scaling, crusty, pimply and itching skin and blood diseases with loss of hair, and relief to a speedy, permanent and economical cure, when the best physicians and all other remedies fail.

Sold everywhere. Price, CUTICURA, 50c; SOAP, 25c.

Prepared by the FORTY EIGHT AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Boston.

400 pages, 60 illustrations and 100 testimonials.

BABY'S SKIN and Scalp purified and beautified by CUTICURA SOAP. Absolutely pure.

Free from Rheumatism

IN ONE MINUTE THE CUTICURA ANTI-PAIN PLEASANT RESTORATIVE, containing musclic acid, sulphur, iodine, and other ingredients, relieves rheumatism, muscular pains and weakness.

CUTICURA—SOLD BY—

JOS. FLEMING & SON, 412 Market street, Pittsburgh.

AMUSEMENTS.

DUQUESNE.

Pittsburg's Leading Theater. Family Matinee To-Day.

NICEST SHOW IN TOWN.

RICHARD GOLDEN. OLD JED PROUTY. AND—DORA WILEY. Sweet Singer of Maine. ELKS' BENEFIT, FRIDAY. Special Afternoon Performance by Mr. RICHARD GOLDEN. OLD JED PROUTY.

And a Number of Selected Specialties.

Tickets may be exchanged for seats at Hays' 75 Fifth ave. mb2-8

PAULSON BROS.,

441 WOOD ST. N. B.—A beautiful new lot of English and American

MACKINTOSHES

Just Received. mb2-MWY

GRAND OPERA HOUSE—

J. E. D. Wilt, Lessee and Manager. Every night this week. Matinee—Wednesday and Saturday. "THE FAULT OF A LANTANA." Popular prices. Next week—Sol Smith Russell. mb2-33

HARRY DAVIS' FIFTH AV. MUSEUM.

All this week. "ELMER COLLINS"—the man who fasted 30 days. FORTHOSS.—The strongest man alive. Admission, 10c. mb2-41

HARRY WILLIAMS' ACADEMY.

Tonight—Matinee Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. HARRY WILLIAMS' OWN SPECIALTY COMPANY. mb2-62

DOUGLAS & MACKIE.

THE BARGAIN OF THE SEASON.

200 PIECES FINEST FRENCH SATINE

Would be good value at 40c a yard at the merely nominal price of

25 CENTS A YARD.

Every Department loaded down with new goods at the lowest prices.

DOUGLAS & MACKIE,

151, 153 and 155 FEDERAL ST., ALLEGHENY.

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

Closing Out Sale to Quit Business. Only a few days more to close out the entire stock of the

TANNER CHINA CO., - 38 FIFTH AVENUE.

Haviland's French China Dinner Sets, \$40, worth \$65. Haviland's French China Tea Sets, \$9.50, worth \$15. A few more of the celebrated Dresden Pattern, 68 piece, Blue Decorated English Porcelain Dinner Sets, \$8, worth \$13.50. Blown and Engraved Tumblers, 58c a dozen, worth \$1. A complete line of Hanging and Table Lamps, Chamber and Dinner Sets, Haviland's White China for Decorating, Fancy Brics-a-Bras, etc. To be closed out regardless of cost or value. Come early and secure the bargains.

The Tanner China Co., 38 Fifth Avenue.

mb18-67-wfsu

WHY DO YOU COUGH?

Do you know that a little cough is a dangerous thing? Are you aware that it often fastens on the lungs and far too often runs into Consumption and ends in Death? People suffering from Asthma, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Consumption will all tell you that

"IT STARTED WITH A COLD."

Can you afford to neglect it? Can you trifle with so serious a matter? Are you aware that

DR. ACKER'S ENGLISH REMEDY

for Coughs, Colds and Consumption is beyond question the greatest of all Modern Remedies? It will stop a Cough in one night. It will check a Cold in a day. It will prevent Croup, relieve Asthma and cure Consumption if taken in time. "You can't afford to be without it." A 25 cent bottle may save you \$100 in Doctor's bills—may save your life! Ask your druggist for it, or write to W. H. MOOKER & CO., 46 West Broadway, New York, for book.

DR. ACKER'S COUGH REMEDY

SOLD BY—JOS. FLEMING & SON, 412 Market street, Pittsburgh. mb18-82

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTHING SO POPULAR

AS

LADIES' SPRING HEEL SHOE!

Many will want them, and we have many to supply the many. Some of the styles we show cannot be duplicated in either city. Consequently it will pay you to make your selection while the stock is complete. Some very pretty designs with Patent Tips at \$2 and \$2.25. Of course, we have them somewhat higher-priced in elegant Cloth Tops.

SPECIAL!

For the next few days, 15 gross Alma, Glycerole and Gilt Edge Dressing, wrappings slightly damaged by flood, dressing as good as ever, 2 bottles for 25c.

"The Famous" Shoe House.

52 Sixth Street. mb18-wfsu

Free from Rheumatism

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SPRING CARPETS

AND

WALL PAPER!

In Carpets we show a very fine line of Royal Wiltons, Axminster, Velvet, Body Brussels, Tapestry and all kinds of Ingrain in style, quality and price. Just what you want.

Wall Paper for rooms, ceilings and artistic colorings, and all the new ideas in the market. You are invited to inspect our stock.

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THE PEOPLE'S STORE

Fifth Ave., Pittsburg.

A HIT,

A Palpable Hit

Our Grand Spring Opening

MILLINERY

WRAPS and JACKETS!

Which Commenced Yesterday.

EXCLUSIVE AGENCY

FOR KNOX'S INDESTRUCTIBLE HATS!

Spring styles of which, in Silks and Derbys, are now ready. Also, the best makes of the finest English Hats always in stock.

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